

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the November 14, 2011 Meeting

Present: April Holinko, Bev Korba, Laurie McMorrow, Don Nolan, Emile Poirier, Joan Quarto, Jan Scottron, Joan Terry, Kevin Grunwald (staff), Barbara Lavoie (staff)

The meeting was called to order by A. Holinko at 9:30 a.m. She thanked L. McMorrow for arranging a meeting space for our Commission.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as submitted.

Correspondence – None

New Business – No one from the McSweeney Center attended our meeting. They have been asked to attend but have been unavailable since September.

Health Care Services – B. Lavoie said she is making the final changes to the At Your Fingertips manuscript and she expects to have it ready for distribution after the first of next year. A suggestion was made that the At Risk form be included in the booklet.

She has been busy consulting with persons looking for advice regarding Medicare changes as the deadline approaches.

During the recent emergency a number of problems came to light while staff worked at the Community Center shelter. The Red Cross staff who came to assist were very much needed as a number of frail elderly came to stay at the shelter who required more assistance than untrained volunteers were capable of handling. A list of local volunteers might be useful for future emergencies. The rural isolated individuals are difficult to reach but a solution for this problem is difficult to find. L. McMorrow suggested an article in the Willimantic Chronicle might be helpful.

Senior Center – K. Grunwald circulated copies of the Director's monthly report in her absence. He noted that the Veterans' Day observance was sparsely attended.

Senior Center Association – No report. President M. Gerling is ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Housing Communities – A. Holinko reported on her visit to the Masonicare facility in Wallingford. E. Poirier and J. Scottron reported that things are going well in their respective communities. They emphasized that neighbors looked out for one another during the recent storm. L. McMorrow offered to look for a new representative from Juniper Hill.

Town Advisory Committees – K. Grunwald told us that the Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities still needs additional members. He would be happy to receive names of potential members.

Triad – No report.

Old Business – K. Grunwald circulated pictures of a proposed sign to call attention to the Senior Center. This sign is similar to the ones at other municipal locations and close in size to the one at Wrights Way. He hopes to find funds for the sign in the facilities maintenance budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, Secretary

Next Meeting – Our next Commission meeting will be held at Juniper Hill in the Four Seasons Room on December 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Proposed Goals for the
Commission on Aging, 2011-2012

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for Seniors, with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefits programs.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.